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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SOUND MASKING SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: A sound masking system according to the invention is disclosed in which one or more sound masking loudspeaker assemblies are coupled to one or more electronic sound masking signal generators. The loudspeaker assemblies in the system of the invention have a low directivity index and preferably emit an acoustic sound masking signal that has a sound masking spectrum specifically designed to provide superior sound masking in an open plan office. Each of the plurality of loudspeaker assemblies is oriented to provide the acoustic sound masking signal in a direct path into the predetermined area in which masking sound is needed. In addition, a loudspeaker assembly is configured as a bolt and slip-nut threading system for ease of installation. The exterior surface of the loud speaker "bolt" and the interior surface of the locking nut contain axially oriented, reciprocal regions with and without threads. In operation, the regions of the nut without threads are oriented to correspond to the regions of the bolt with threads. The nut is then slid along the bolt until the desired placement position is reached and locked in place with a half turn of the nut or less. An interference pin may also be used to provide positive locking of the nut at any position.

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